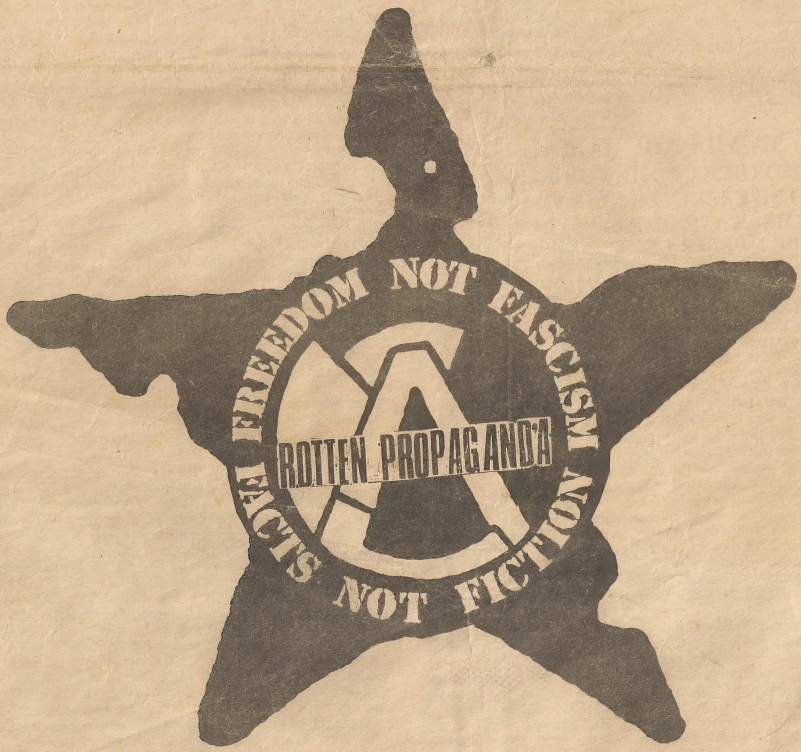
ACT NOW

OR FOREVER REST IN PEACE!



AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE BY THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT

The Government of the United States misleadingly denies that there are any political prisoners incarcerated in this countries penal facilities. This country's justice system is a fucking lie. Our government has perfected the legal system as a tool of terrorism. Anyone who has enough sense to see through the political corruption of the American system, and chooses to inform others of this situation may soon fall victim of this terrorism.

Since political prisoners in the United States are supposedly non-existent, these people are not very likely to be locked up based on their beliefs. Instead they are initially targeted due to their beliefs. Once targeted, they are subject to countless forms of harassment and intimidation. These dissidents of the state are then framed for murder, conspiracy or weapons charges. As far as our government is concerned, the situation is now resolved nice and neat, the threat has now been neutralized. Since a crime has been established-they are not political prisoners, even if this crime is totally falsified and the prisoner was denied even the most basic rights of a fair and impartial trial.

There are hundreds of political prisoners, or more appropriately, hostages being held in this country for standing up to this racist, terrorist government. When you have a system, like our American system, so disgustingly corrupt that it fails to serve the public, it's time to tear that fucking system down piece by piece. From the enforcers: local and state police, military and government goon agencies like the FBI, CIA and ATF, to our politicians on every level to judges and attorneys who knowingly violate the laws they all claim to be protecting. In this country, things are so corrupt that in most cases IF YOU ARE AN ALLY OF THE GOVERNMENT, YOU ARE AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE.

The American government has outlived it's usefulness. It's time for change- no matter what it takes. Our most basic rights that are supposedly guaranteed to us are taken away every day by an elite few who believe that the people's best interests are to be decided by this elite's own small minded, biased, racist, self serving decisions.

The Media has failed miserably to serve the people in an unbiased manner. The Media is a tool of the rich and powerful, so once again the people lose out. The Media has stolen the people's voice, instead they are prostitutes to the state.

We need to prepare for the day when conditions are right for the final confrontation. The day when the system is weak enough and the people are strong enough to evolve from resistance to revolution. A day when we can take what's rightfully ours. When no one can be locked up or executed because of their beliefs. A day when we are truly free. Free in practice... not just in theory.

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS. TO BE EXECUTED AUG. 17, 1995 BY THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

STOP THE MURDER OF AN INNOCENT MAN!

Newly elected Governor of Pennsylvania (Rep.) Tom Ridge, who won the election by jumping on the "tough on crime" bandwagon, has already made his position painfully clear. Tom Ridge, who has already murdered Keith Zettlemoyer- Pennsylvania's first death row inmate to be executed in 33 years. Ridge is nothing more than a spineless pawn succumbing to the pressures of right-wing politicians- and in Mumia Abu-Jamal's case- the fraternal order of police. Anyone who would advance their career by executing people, some of which are completely innocent, must be held accountable for their actions. WE MUST LET THESE POLITICIANS KNOW THAT WE DON'T APPROVE OF THIS RACIST DEATH PENALTY.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is not a cop-killer- not a monster like the government, police and media would have you believe. Jamal is a man who stood up to the system and fought for the oppressed. Jamal is a revolutionary journalist who stood behind his convictions and refused to give up. Now his life is in danger because of it. Jamal was politically active since his teens. At 16 he was a lieutenant minister of information for the Philadelphia Branch of the Black Panther Party. Despite what the paranoid Media and Government thought of the Black Panthers, they were not a terrorist organization out to kill "Whitey". Mumia came to work on the Panther's newspaper where he learned Revolutionary journalism. He used these skills after he left the Black Panther Party and became a full time journalist.

By early 1981, Jamal was a prominent journalist. He was president of the Philadelphia association of Black Journalists. The Philadelphia Inquirer recognized him as "an eloquent activist not afraid to raise his voice." The Philadelphia Magazine named him one of "81 people to watch in 1981." To the oppressed he was known as "the voice of the voiceless". Among the voiceless was the MOVE Organization which surfaced in Philadelphia in the 70's (see article on MOVE). His work became controversial with his relentless coverage of the 1978 police attack of MOVE. Jamal's coverage seriously questioned the police's brutal use of force and the fairness of the trial. Jamal's reporting invoked condemnation from then Mayor Frank Rizzo, who openly blamed a "new breed of advocacy journalism" for the violent clash between the police and MOVE. Because of his revolutionary journalism and the biased censorship of most of the media, Jamal had to drive a cab part time to support his family.

On Dec. 9,1981, Jamal was driving his cab and came across a cop ruthlessly beating a man. As Jamal rushed to stop the beating he realized that the man was his brother, Bill, who had been stopped for a traffic violation. What happened next remains unclear. The cop was shot and killed, Jamal was shot and was sitting on the curb bleeding to death when police backup arrived. Police proceeded to beat Jamal at the scene and 45 minutes transpired before he was to the hospital where he was dumped on the floor and beaten again. Immediately after the bullet was removed in surgery Jamal was placed under arrest for murder. The cops also tried to sever Jamal's life support in the hospital.

Over 125 eyewitnessss gave statements to the police at the scene. The prosecution hand picked two of these eyewitnesses who, though their stories had changed several times in previous months, fingered Jamal at the trial. Both had prior convictions and pending charges, making them susceptible to pressure from the police and District Attorney. One eyewitness described an assailant more than 50 pounds heavier than Jamal. Another testified the assailant wore an afro while Jamal wore dreadlocks. The court allotted Jamal only $150 for pre-trial investigation. This, compounded by the state's failure to provide the addresses of eyewitnesses by the trial date kept the defense from sucessfully finding witnesses to testify. Police ballistics experts were unable to match any of the bullets found in the cop's body to Jamal's gun. Jamal sought to represent himself but instead an attorney, who openly told the court he had neither the time nor the training to handle the case, was forced upon him by the court. This attorney has since been disbarred. although 40% of Philadelphia's residents are black, all but two jurors were white. Eleven of sixteen potential black jurors were excluded peremptorily by the prosecution. Further, the court allowed the prosecution to exclude a juror who questioned whether she could vote for the death penalty. Meanwhile, the defense's challenge of a juror who admitted his bias against Jamal was denied .

Judge Albert Sabo, a lifetime member of the fraternal order of police, presided over Jamal's trial. Although Sabo has handled far fewer homicide cases than many other sitting homicide judges in the city, he is responsible for one in seven death sentences in the state. Nationwide, Sabo has sentenced more people(31 total) to death than any other judge in the country- only two were white. Sabo has had more of his rulings turned over in appellate courts than any other judge.

Prosecutor Joseph McGill cross examined Jamal on his Black Panther membership. Using as evidence a 1970 Philadelphia Inquirer article which quoted 16 year old Jamal- McGill asserted that he had been waiting 12 years to kill a cop. In his summation at the sentencing hearing, McGill insisted the jury was not being "asked to kill anyone" as Jamal would have "appeal after appeal after appeal." This implied that the responsibility for determining a death sentence did not ultimately rest with the jury. Such language has been found fatally misleading by courts in New York, Georgia, California and other states- also by the U.S. Supreme Court, providing reason to overturn a sentence. But not in Jamal's case. Breaking another precedent, Jamal's appeal was decided by only four of the seven justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the first such review by so few justices in Pennsylvania's history. The United States Supreme Court refused to hear Jamal's case in 1990, although the Supreme Court did cite Commonwealth v. Abu-Jamal in overturning a death sentence of Aryan Brotherhood member David Dawson.

Mumia Abu Jamal's case illustrates several ways in which racial, economic and political biases are structurally imbedded in our criminal justice system. The case raises many serious questions. Why would the prosecution go to such lengths to exclude black jurors and to prosecute Jamal on the basis of his political background? Why would the Pennsylvania Supreme Court both violate it's own precedents, upholding Jamal's death sentence, and overlook numerous violations of his rights? Why the U.S. Supreme Court's inconsistent approach to the First Amendment?

The United States and the State of Pennsylvania have gone to incredible lengths to try and silence Jamal, cover up his case, and now-execute him. Mumia Abu-Jamal is an internationally known political prisoner and a victim of an enormous conspiracy. As his day of execution is just around the bend, efforts all over the world are stepping up, trying to save Jamal's life. Massive support is still needed to stop this legal murder of an innocent man. Pressure needs to be put on the politicians involved. Jamal's current lawyer, Leonard Weinglass filed a Post Conviction Relief Appeal (PCRA), Motion for a Stay of Execution and Motion for Recusal of Judge Albert Sabo. Sabo, who presided over Jamal's initial case want's and has the option to come out of retirement to review the (PRCA).

Currently Jamal has been moved to Phase 2 (Death Watch) and was then put into isolation for "conducting a business" from prison. The so-called "business" is his book LIVE FROM DEATH ROW which has caused much controversy in the political world. They are afraid that: (1.) The money made from this book will provide him with an adequate defense. (2.) People will be exposed to an intelligent, revolutionary, innocent man. Jamal has been thrown into isolation as a result of his book. Although Stacy Coon, one of the cops serving time for beating Rodney King, has written a book telling how King attacked his nightstick with his head. Coon's book

has made about 3.5 million dollars, Mumia only got 30 thousand for his book, but as far as authorities are concerned, Coon's book violates no such laws.

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL MUST NOT BE MURDERED BY THIS UNJUST GOVERNMENT. JOIN THE FIGHT TO SAVE JAMAL'S LIFE NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

THE MOVE ORGANIZATION: OVER 20 YEARS OF INJUSTICE

The MOVE Organization surfaced in Philadelphia during the early 1970's. Characterized by dreadlock hair, the adopted surname "Africa", a principled unity, and an uncompromising commitment to their belief, members practice the teachings of MOVE founder John Africa. Members helped homeless people find places to live, assisted the elderly with home repairs, intervened in violence between local gangs and fraternities, and helped incarcerated offenders meet parole requirements through a rehabilitation program. After adopting MOVE's way of natural living, many individuals overcame past problems of drug addiction, physical disabilities, infertility and alcoholism.

By 1974 MOVE was appearing in public with increasing frequency. In demonstrations at zoos, pet shops, political rallies, public forums and media offices, MOVE used non-violent protest and strategized profanity to expose the profane circumstances of the system's injustices.

The mainstream media began a long history of distorted MOVE coverage using misquotes, unverified rumors and biased stories. MOVE's unique appearance, alarming profanity and unconventional behavior got prominent attention, while rehabilitative efforts and positive community activities were largely ignored, along with the essence of MOVE's message.

Throughout the 1970's, Frank Rizzo was the key figure in Philadelphia government. He started as a street cop and rose through the department's ranks, eventually serving as Police Commissioner from 1967 to 1971 and became Mayor from 1972 to 1980. Rizzo reigned over what was known as one of the most brutal, racist police forces in the country. Rizzo ruled over Philadelphia with an iron hand. Rizzo's mostly white police force was much feared and hated. MOVE launched demonstration after demonstration aimed at focusing attention on police abuses. As a result of this activism, the police began a concerted campaign of harassment against MOVE, breaking up demonstrations by arresting MOVE members on disorderly conduct charges or violations of whatever local ordinance could be made to apply. On numerous occasions MOVE members were beaten severely. Sadistic cops knowingly held down pregnant MOVE women spread-eagle and repeatedly kicked them in the stomach and vagina until they suffered a miscarriage. The Philadelphia Police are responsible for 4 miscarriages and the murder of a 3 week old baby which was stomped to death. The baby's skull was crushed.

By early 1976, hundreds of MOVE trials and hearings had clogged the justice system. Robert, Jerry, and Conrad Africa were all found guilty of "assault" charges and sentenced to long jail terms. MOVE considered them political prisoners. On May 20, 1977 MOVE staged a major demonstration demanding the release of their political prisoners and an end to the violent harassment by the city. To keep an increasingly brutal police force at bay, MOVE appeared outside their house with firearms. Since it was not a crime for MOVE to have firearms on their property, the city issued warrants for 11 MOVE members on riot charges and "possession of an instrument of crime." Police began 24-hour surveillance to make arrests. To force MOVE members from the house, Rizzo got court approval to starve them out. On March 16,1978 the police set up a blockade around the house and shut off water lines. The blockade lasted almost 2 months, generating increased media attention. On April 16,1978, thousands marched around city hall protesting the city's action. As the situation became internationally known, Philadelphia's starvation blockade became an embarrassment to the human rights initiatives of President Carter and U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young. MOVE and the city negotiated a settlement, by this time the warrants were void.

On August 2, 1978 the city ruled that MOVE had violated a 90 day deadline to vacate the house. MOVE had never agreed to such an agreement. On August 8, 1978 hundreds of police and firemen surrounded MOVE headquarters. Water cannons flooded the house, heavy construction equipment tore down barricades and knocked down the windows. Eventually police stormed the house shooting, one cop was killed by police crossfire. All the MOVE members were hiding in the basement, so it was impossible for them to have shot this cop. Ballistic tests and reenactment of the scene could have proven the police shot and killed this cop but the house was ripped down hours after all the MOVE members had surrendered. All 9 adult MOVE members were found guilty of murder and sentenced to 30-100 years each. NINE PEOPLE CANT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE BULLET. Every MOVE member was innocent it was yet another police cover-up. Over the next 7 years MOVE protested the imprisonment of their 9 fellow members. In 1984 Wilson Goode became mayor. While many Philadelphians were glowing with pride at the installment of the city's first black mayor, behind the scenes Goode reneged on his earlier promise and took no action as another confrontation with MOVE took shape. This time the city responded much more viciously. On May 13, 1985 police fired over 10,000 rounds of ammunition into the house knowing there were women and children inside. They also tried to blast through the walls with the military explosives the FBI had illegally provided. When none of these tactics succeeded in driving MOVE from the house, a state police helicopter was used to drop a bomb on the roof. This started a fire that officials deliberately allowed to burn. It soon spread to the adjoining rowhouses, eventually burning down the entire block of 60 some homes. With their house in flames, MOVE members repeatedly tried to exit but were met with police gunfire which killed some of the adults and children in the alley behind the house. One adult Ramona Africa, and one child Birdy Africa, escaped the fire and were taken into custody. 6 adults and 5 children died. Ramona Africa spent 7 years in jail for daring to survive. No member of the police, city or federal government was ever charged with any crime. MOVE continues to be a strong outspoken organization to this day, still demanding the release of MOVE political prisoners and justice for their 16 members murdered in cold-blood (including the 4 miscarriages). The 9 members from the 1978 confrontation are still in jail today. MOVE has also been a dominant voice in the fight for Mumia Abu-Jamal's life.

LEONARD PELTIER

is a 49 year-old Chippewa/ Sioux Indian serving consecutive life sentences in the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas. A member of the American Indian Movement (AIM), Peltier was convicted in 1977 of killing two FBI agents during a firefight on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation during the summer of 1975. It has subsequently been shown, through the FBI's own documents, that incomplete and inaccurate ballistics evidence was deliberately presented at the trial in order to "establish Peltier's guilt." As early as 1980, Amnesty International concluded that even the most elementary standards of justice require that Peltier receive a new trial. Prosecutor Lynn Crooks has since admitted the government "has no idea" who killed the agents, and the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals has formally acknowledged that the original case against Peltier no longer exists. Still the court has declined to reverse Peltier's conviction, expressly because the problems involved in the case result from a clear pattern of "misconduct on the part of some FBI agents." To order the matter back to trial would, the judges correctly observe, "impute even more impropriety" to the Bureau, a step the profess themselves "reluctant" to take. The U.S. Supreme Court has twice refused to hear Peltier's appeals. No reason was stated on either occasion. Peltier, of course, remains in prison. Only in this hypocritical nation could a government have the nerve to keep Peltier locked up. After butchering the American Indians and stealing their land this government is still slaughtering what's left of the Indians. From forcing Indians into polluted reservations to harassment of the American Indian Movement the bloodshed has yet to see an end.

GERONIMO JI JAGA (PRATT)

headed the Black Panther Party (BPP) chapter in Los Angeles during the late 1960's. In 1972, he was convicted of the 1968 "Tennis Court Murder," in Santa Monica, of a white school teacher named Donna Olsen. Pratt's main line of defense was that it was impossible for him to have killed Olsen, given that at the time of her death he was 350 miles away, in Oakland, attending a BPP national leadership meeting. FBI electronic surveillance logs (from the Bureau's bugging of Party headquarters), he argued, would prove his point. At the trial, FBI representatives lied under oath, denying that any such bugging had occurred. They also denied that they had infiltrated the defense team when, in fact, they had. Pratt was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Years later, when it was proven that the Bureau had indeed bugged the BPP facilities in question, his attorneys once again demanded the relevant logs. This time the FBI claimed to have "lost" the crucial material. The California Supreme Court then decided that the prosecution's having placed informers among Pratt's lawyers and paralegal staff had rendered "no prejudice" to his defense. As in the Peltier case, Amnesty International has long since concluded that a retrial is necessary if justice is to be served. At present, Pratt remains in prison having been denied parole 13 times. Pratt has now served 24 years in California, a state in which the average time served on a first degree murder conviction is 4.5 years. During a 1988 parole hearing, Los Angeles assistant District Attorney Diane Vianni went before the board to explain why: "Pratt should not be released" she stated, because "he is still a revolutionary man."

DHORUBA BIN WAHAD (RICHARD MOORE)

is a former leader of the Black Panther Party (BPP) in New York. In 1973, he was convicted of wounding two police officers during an "ambush attack" staged in 1971. He was sentenced to serve from 25-years-to-life. On March 22, 1990, he was released from prison and ordered back to trial. A judge had finally required the release of FBI documents demonstrating conclusively that the Bureau, the New York City red squad, and state prosecutors had collaborated to coerce false testimony against Moore during his trial. For example, Pauline Joseph, a key government witness, was shown to have initially insisted to investigators that Moore was not the individual who had fired a machine gun at the policemen. After several months of being held as a "material witness"- all the while being "worked in

shifts" by agents, cops, and prosecutors-her story mysteriously changed. In court, she claimed Moore had "confessed" his deed to her after the fact. The government agencies involved carefully covered up the contradictory statements of Joseph and other witnesses for more than 15 years. It should be noted that all of this was acknowledged by the Supreme Court of New York a full year before Moore was actually freed; he sat in a cage for 12 additional months while the judges debated whether the law meant they were "required" to grant him a new trial, or whether retrial wasn't just an "option" they might decline to exercise.

ASSATA SHAKUR is a revolutionary woman who after 10 unsuccessful attempts by the FBI to frame her was finally convicted of the shooting of a New Jersey State Trooper. The specifics of this case and trial are just as outrageous as all the other cases but the difference is that Shakur broke out of prison. Shakur lives in exile in Cuba, she managed to escape her unjust imprisonment. The most important aspect of Shakur's story is that she is free today, although the U.S. Government continues in their attempts to extradite her. Amidst all the frame-ups and secret killings Shakur has triumphed and beaten our oppressive government. This goes to show that truly they can't get us all. THEY ARE NOT INVINCIBLE.

HERMAN BELL, ALBERT "NUH" WASHINGTON, and ANTHONY BOTTOM- the so-called **"NEW YORK THREE"** were members of the Black Liberation Army (BLA). In 1975, they were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1971 "execution-style murders" of two New York City policemen. Later it came out that ballistics evidence presented against them at the trial was directly contradicted by FBI lab reports. The FBI, police, and prosecutors knew it at the time but withheld this crucial information from the defense, and then suppressed it for more than a decade. Even prosecutor Robert Tannenbaum has admitted that a key witness against the three, Ruben Scott, was tortured- wires inserted into his penis, among other atrocities- by New Orleans police, in order to obtain his "cooperation." The government then apparently dropped murder charges against Scott in a California cop-killing case in exchange for his testimony against Bell, Washington, and Bottom in New York. Two other important witnesses, Linda Torres and Jackie Tabb, were held in jail for 13 months as material witnesses and told they would never regain custody over their young children unless they testified to the prosecution's version of events. Much of this information was also suppressed at trial and during direct appeals. Nonetheless, the three remain in prison.

THE PERFECT CITIZEN

Are you the perfect citizen? Do you support this Capitalist system's every move? Every day this system works it's hardest to ensure your slavery. Every day the wealthy grow wealthier while the poor grow poorer. Every day WE spend our small pathetic wages to enhance THEIR wealth and power. We're tightening our own noose. Thanks to us, the government and the companies have the strength to dominate other nations and control our every move. But do they even need to bother controlling us- or would you already go along with everything they say? Are you so blinded by your naive patriotism that this government can do no wrong? Or maybe you don't trust our government, maybe you despise this system and everything it stands for. You can complain and bitch all you want, if you don't make an effort to change things you're just as harmless as the flag wavers. YOU ARE THE PERFECT CITIZEN- NOT ONLY ARE YOU LETTING THE GOVERNMENT GET AWAY WITH EVERYTHING YOU DENOUNCE, BUT THE FACT THAT YOU DENOUNCE IT MISLEADINGLY EXHIBITS THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH THEY PROJECT. The fact is that freedom of speech is not for everyone. The government exploits your bitching to show how great it is to live in a country that you can so openly criticize. The sad truth is that if by criticizing you have the power to get your message to people- you will be silenced one way or another. The government has built agencies for the soul purpose of "neutralizing and destroying" any so-called "threat". Those considered a threat are those who can expose our government to it's citizens, those who have the ability to educate and inform or to motivate and organize the people. These are the people that have put their freedom and lives on the line. We need to join their struggle by helping to educate the people of the problems, corruption, and injustice we face. We need to educate ourselves and each other about our freedom fighters that are now locked up. These freedom fighters are in prison because of their efforts and commitment to change, they deserve our support, not the political bastards who locked them up to silence their message. What are you waiting for? You can't wait until they show up at your front door to take your stand. You have to realize that we need to stand up for one another. The government has not only failed to provide protection for the people- but has become the reason that people need protecting. At this point, the very least we need to do is educate and organize the people- so they stand a fighting chance. Without support the government can be stopped, they know this to be true. This is the reason for the never-ending onslaught of media bullshit. This system will stop at nothing to keep the people patriotic, ignorant, or apathetic. So where do you stand? Have you let these bastards already beat you down? Have you been neutralized? Have you let them brainwash you into giving up? Maybe you've even been neutralized without your knowledge. Maybe you think that your taking a stand. Outcasting yourself from the system by becoming a punk is making a statement but not taking a stand. Taking a stand involves more than a haircut and obnoxious behavior. The punk scene has the potential to be a real threat. It's time the punks realize our potential and dig our fucking heels in. We've been pushed back into the corner for some time now. It's about time to fucking do something about it. Our fellow punks have been through a lot of shit lately. Hundreds of punks involved in Food Not Bombs have been arrested in San Francisco, California. New York City Squatters were unjustly evicted from their squats and arrested. A fucking tank was brought in, as well as hundreds of pigs to show their power. Even if you don't condone violence, you're going to have to defend yourself at some point. We're eventually going to have to stand off against this government- so why not prepare yourselves. They started this fucking war- don't let them finish it.

ATTENTION: IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN DIRECT ACTION- READ THIS. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.

RECIPES FOR NONSURVIVAL THE ANARCHIST COOKBOOK BY: ESPERANZA GODOT

"The Anarchist Cookbook by William Powell has been called 'a manual of terror' by Max Geltman, writing in the National Review (July 22, 1971). I find this phrase aptly descriptive, but not in the same sense that Mr. Geltman would have us believe.

"This 'cookbook' consists of three basic parts: an introduction by Professor Bergman entitled 'Anarchism Today'; and two much longer sections by William Powell on drug and explosive manufacturing.

"If ever there were an example of Orwellian doublespeak, this is it! 'Anarchism Today' is basically an interpretation of the philosophic roots of anarchism, awkwardly coupled with sketchy references to current events. Almost all of the intellectuals discussed are from the nineteenth century; and there is virtually no mention of writings from 1930 to present. This may be expected from someone who appears to have briefly studied the topic while at college during the 1920s, and thereafter relied only on superficial newspaper accounts. Bergman should have been aware of Albert Jay Nock for example, and anarchists today are certainly aware of of Murray Rothbard, Karl Hess, etc.

"Bergman considers Nihilism to be a form of Anarchism, and Anarchism a form of radical revolutionism. He interprets Marxism in an anarchist light, and correctly suggests that Communist governments today are feudal/reactionary. However, his emphasis on the Marxist element in anarchist intellectual tradition is clearly one-sided. A more thorough and fair analysis can be found in Native American Anarchism (1932) by Eunice minette Schuster.

"Bergman's emphasis on the Nihilistic and destructive aspects of Anarchism I find disturbing. This emphasis seems to arrive from the notion that the State is all, so to oppose the State is to oppose everything. Anarchists do not have to propose a concrete alternative because that would be authoritarian.

"The rest of this book consists mainly of drug and explosive recipes relayed to us by William Powell. His motivation for doing so is supposedly to allow the "silent majority" access to information which he claims only the radical groups now possess. The idea of a 'silent majority' comes from classical Greek literature and in that context referred to the dead who are the real majority. If you follow the steps outlined in these recipes, you may soon join them! The Library Journal (March 15, 1971) puts it this way: 'Much of it is so sketchy as to be harmless, but there are a number of booby traps still for the nitwit who wishes to try them. There are drug making recipes... that may make one very ill... There are also a number of stunts which could backfire on the idiot who trys them.'

"Let's get down to specifics:

"Ed Rosenthal told me that he had spent a lot of time trying to track down rumors of pot growing in New York sewers. Well, I just may have stumbled on the origin of the 'New York White' rumors. Despite what Powell may think, plants are not as adaptable as alligators and need light to grow. Another choice quote: '...strangely enough, insects ignore marijuana and do not harm.' Strange indeed.

"The DEA has a Precursor Control Program watch list. This means that if you buy large quantities of the common precursors to illegal chemicals, the Federal government may take an interest in your activities. Several of the chemicals on this list are used in Mr. Powell's LSD recipe, such as Acetonitrile, Trifluoracetic Anhydride, Dimethylformamide, and

(Rifkin 199)."

If we are destroying three species a day just imagine all of the possible cures that could be destroyed in just one year. Now consider the fact that the burning and bulldozing of the rain forests has been going on for over 40 years. Rain forests are also sources for industrial materials. Natural rubbers, latexes, resins, gums, dyes, waxes, and oils may be derived from tropical plants. These derivatives can be found in products such as lipstick, deoderant, cellophane, and furniture varnish (Rifkin 198).

With all the cattle roaming this planet one would expect there to be an effect on the land itself. The outcome of this is what is known as desertification. "Desertification", according to Rifkin, "is caused by the overgrazing of livestock; over cultivation of the land; deforestation; and improper irrigation techniques" (200). The United Nations Environmental Program defines desrtification as impoverishment of dry, semi-dry, or sub dry ecosystems by the impact of man's activities. It results in the lack of productivity in desirable plant life, accelerated soil depletion, and hazards to human living (What's 2). The areas worst hit by desertification are those that are major cattle-producing areas. Included in this is the western half of the United States, Central and South America, Australia, and sub-Saharan Africa (Rifkin 201). The United Nations Environmental Program believes "that 73% of the world's 3.3 hectares of dry range land is at least moderately desertified" (Durning 21).

Roughly 1.3 billion cattle are stepping on or consuming much of the earth's grasslands. A cow applies 24 pounds of pressure per square inch with each step it takes (Rifkin 204). The pressure applied compacts the soil making it difficult for water to be absorbed. Each cow consumes 900 pounds of vegetation month. Without these plants there is nothing to take in the water and recycle the the nutrients within the soil. This leaves the land open to wind and water erosion. It is estimated that 60% of the earth's range land, in the last 50 years, has been damaged by overgrazing (Rifkin 204).

The ecosystems of tropical rain forests are very fragile. The soil that makes up the forest floors is low in acid. It is the complex nutrient cycling of the trees and plants that keep the forests as fertile as they are. One description of these forests has been 'deserts covered by trees' (Yates 67). Once the forests are cleared the land is left exposed, susceptible to desertification. Geoffrey Yates, author of Food: Need, Greed, and Myopia. Exploitation and Starvati[illegible] World of Plenty, describes the desertification process in the tropics.

"As soon as the protective cover of the trees is removed the soil is exposed to erosion. It cracks in the hot sun and torrential rains wash it away. Remaining trees are undermined, low laying land is flooded,and growing crops destroyed. In the tropics this process can be very rapid and even in areas where the land can be successfully cultivated for awhile, the soil can quickly deteriorate to the state where it has no further value" (68).

Farmers also play a significant role in the desertification process. Agricultural techniques used to produce large amounts of grain to feed cattle deplete topsoil. Robin Hur, a mathematician at Harvard Business school, spent one year documenting livestock's cost on environmental resources. When asked how much topsoil erosion is linked to growing feed for cattle and overgrazing he replied, 'Most of it-about 5.9 billion tons."(Lappe' 80). He goes on to explain that feed for livestock covers half of the harvested acres. Corn and soybeans, which make up a large amount of the feed, are the worst when it comes to soil erosion (Lappe' 80). According to William Brune, an Iowa state conservation official, 'It can take 100 to 500 years to create an inch of topsoil' (Lappe' 80). So how much soil can we lose and still maintain a balance? The accepted amount is 5 tons of topsoil per acre a year. According to the Department of Agriculture, "one out of eight acres exceeds the limit by almost three times over" (Lappe' 81).

Livestock industry also has an effect on ground water. The water that we drink may contain deadly nitrates. Food geographer, Georg Borgstrom, estimates that, "American livestock contribute five times more harmful organic waste to water pollution than people do, and twice that of industry" (Lappe'84). Durning states, "Nitrates from manure nitrogen that percolate into the ground water can cause nervous system impairments, cancer, and methemoglobinemia or 'blue baby' syndrome . . . ." (Durning 19). In streams nitrogen and phosphorus over fertilize algae. The algae grow and deplete oxygen supplies in the water, suffocating other forms of aquatic life.

The threat of livestock does not just rest on the planet's surface but also in its atmosphere. "The world cattle complex is contributing to the greenhouse gases that are migrating up into the atmosphere, blocking the escape of the sun's heat from the earth" (Rifkin 223). Included in the cattle complex is all of the steps that lead up to actually eating the beef. Growing the crops to feed the cattle, clearing the rain forest, and the cattle themselves are all involved in increasing the amount of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases, which include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide act as a blanket surrounding the earth. When solar energy enters the atmosphere it is absorbed into the earth's surface. Heat that rises up into the atmosphere either escapes or reflects back off the molecules that make up the gases and gives us what we call "warm weather". With an increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere no heat will be able to escape, thus temperatures will continue to rise. According to Rifkin, "By the year 2030, North American cities like New York and Boston may have the tropical climate of Miami"(226).

The cattle complex is responsible for emitting CO_2 into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels and biomass. When fossil fuels are burned they emit CO_2 into the atmosphere. For every one pound of grain-fed beef in the United States a gallon of gasoline is burned. A four person family, on a meat based diet, requires annually 260 gallons of fossil fuel. This is equivalent to 2.5 tons of additional CO_2 distributed into the atmosphere (Rifkin 225).

Within plants there is an abundance of CO_2. Plants store CO_2 in the process of photosynthesis; when plants are burned CO_2 is returned to the atmosphere. Within the trees that make up the Amazon rain forest 75 billion tons of carbon are stored. In 1987, about 1.2 billion tons of CO_2 were released into the atmosphere due to the "clearing and burning of the forests" (Rifkin 224).

To help maximize grain outputs used in feeding cattle, farmers have used petrochemical fertilizers. The use of these type of fertilizers, "which emit nitrous oxide", skyrocketed between 1950 and 1989 "from 14 million tons . . . to 143 million tons" (Rifkin 225).

Cattle directly contribute to the greenhouse gases through the emission of methane. According to Durning,

"Ruminant animals release perhaps 80 million tons of this gas each year in belches and flatulence, while animal wastes at feed lots and factory-style farms emit another 35 tons." (Durning 27).

When the manure starts to decompose methane escapes into the atmosphere. Recently scientists have developed a "methane sniffer" to detect the actual amount of methane that each cow may return to the atmosphere (Kliener 14).

The "cattle complex" requires enormous amounts of resources to maintain the demand for meat. Water and fossil fuels are being devoured at unimaginable rates. Both the production of feed and raising of cattle require water and fossil fuels. According to Durning, if we include

fuel for powering farm machinery and for manufacturing fertilizers and pesticides, feed grain turns out to be an energy-intensive product. . . . 30,000 kilocalories of fossil fuel energy are burned to produce a kilogram of pork in the United States-equivalent to the energy in almost four liters of gasoline. . . . Producing the meat eaten each year by the typical American takes the equivalent of 190 liters of gasoline (17)."

Figure 1 at the end of the paper shows the amount of calories of fossil fuels to get one calorie of protein in animal based and plant based foods. As we can see the amount of calories of fossil fuels used to produce one calorie of protein for an animal based diet is far more than the amount used on a plant based diet.

The amount of water needed to maintain the "cattle complex" is enormous. In a recent report from Newsweek, 'The water that goes into a 1,000-pound steer would float a destroyer' (Lappe' 76)."Irrigation to grow food for livestock . . . uses 50 out of every 100 gallons of water 'consumed' in the United States (Lappe' 76)." One third of all irrigation water in California goes to livestock agriculture. Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and the Texas panhandle gets the water for it's feedcrops from the Ogallala Aquifer (Durning 17-18). The Ogallala Aquifer is an underground lake that is located below these states. Many scientist consider parts of this underground lake a "nonrenewable resource" due to the fact that it takes such a long time for rainwater to "seep" back into the lake (Lappe' 78). According to Lappe' the amount of water being pulled from the Ogallala Aquifer is more than the annual flow of the Colorado River (78). Instead of worrying about how long our showers last, or how often we wash our car we should pay closer attention to how much meat we are eating.

One of the saddest tragedies of our time is the number of people who face starvation. "Approximately 20 million people die each year around the world from hunger and related diseases (Rifkin 177)." Nearly 1.3 billion people suffer from hunger and malnutrition (What's 1). Of the children in the third world nations, nearly 40 percent are affected by undernutrition (Rifkin 177). There are 24 countries in the sub-Saharan Africa region that are identified as being affected by food shortages (Yates 42). In America people worry about the disorders resulting from excess. How many people do you know who are or were on a diet? In poorer countries a majority of the people can not even get the recommended daily nutrients. Children are actually wasting away. "Wasting", according to Rifkin, "is a symptom of 'acute undernutrition' resulting from a combination of insufficient food intake and a high incidence of infectious diseases, especially diarrhea (Rifkin 177)."

How can it be that all these people go hungry? While government control and distibution of food at times are key factors in starvation the fact remains that massive amounts of grain are being fed to livestock. Thirty-eight percent of all grain grown in the world go to livestock. In America livestock receive 70% of all grain grown. Eastern Europe, the European Community, Brazil, and Japan gave about half of their grain to livestock in 1990 (Durning 14). Figure 4 on the last page shows the amount of grain that went to feed or food in the Soviet Union between 1956 and 1990. Two-thirds of the grain that is exported out of the United States to other

countries goes to feed cattle, not hungry people (Rifkin 162). Even if we didn't feed all that grain to cattle would there be enough to feed everyone? According to Yates, ". . . there is enough grain alone in the world to supply a 3,000 calories a day per person - on an average we need 2,400 calories per day" (42).

Two and a half tons of feed go into feeding just one livestock animal in a year. Sixteen pounds of feed fed to a beef cattle in the United States produces 1 pound of meat for consumption. (Lappe' 69) Figure 2 at the end of the paper shows the pounds of grain it takes to receive one pound of meat, poultry, and eggs.

Where does all of the meat go? A large amount of it goes more affluent countries such as the United States, Australia , and France. Poorer countries, like Thailand and India, consume very little meat. Rifkin explains the differences in diet between the affluent countries compared to third world countries.

"Three-fourths or more of the diet of the average Asian is composed of grain. Asian adults consume between 300 and 400 pounds of grain a year. A middle-class American, by contrast, consumes over a ton of grain (2,000 pounds) each year, 80 percent of it by the way of eating cattle (and other livestock) that are grain-fed" (163).

Two out of every three people on this planet consume mainly a vegetarian diet (Rifkin 163). The other one-third, who demand the meat, deny over one third of all grain grown to the people who needed the most. The best and saddest example of this idea was seen in Ethiopia in the famine of 1984. While thousands of people were dying every day from famine grain was being grown in Ethiopia. It's destination was for the livestock of the United Kingdom and other European countries (What's 1).

So what is the solution to all these problems? As I stated at the beginning of the paper, adopting a vegetarian diet or at the least dramatically reducing your meat intake will help. In an interview Durning stated, "I'd say reducing meat is more important than reducing the use of hazardous materials in your home." (Weisenthal 44). If the demand for meat was decreased the amount of livestock on the planet would drop. With less livestock roaming around the need for pasture land would be decreased. If we decrease the the need for pasture land then the number of trees being cut down would also be reduced. Desertification would be slowed down. Levels of ground water pollution from nitrates released by organic waste will drop. Less organic waste and more trees will mean less methane and carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere. The amount of natural resources used would be greatly reduced. A total vegetarian or vegan can be fed using less than 10% of the water it takes to feed a meat-eater (And 7). Finally more people will be fed on a vegetarian diet. "A plot of land can feed 12 people who eat plants and grains, but only one person if the plants are first fed to an animal (Compassionate 9). More and more people are choosing a vegetarian diet every year. Though the reasons for doing so differ the result is the same: a positive step towards a healthier environment.

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**The figures referred to in the text had to be left out due to space.*

THE AMERICAN DREAM IS JUST THAT

COINTELPRO (COunter INTELligence PROgrams) was designed to "disrupt and destabilize," "cripple," "destroy" or otherwise "neutralize" dissident individuals and political groupings in the United States. Blatant terrorism and such fascistic tactics date back to the birth of this country. The U.S. Government has always used its military might in containing and destroying anyone who doesn't follow the system. There is a long history of discrimination against political activists in the realm of criminal justice. Documents from FBI's COINTELPRO which have been made public reveal that the Bureau has not only been involved in harassment and surveillance of political activists, but also in the falsification and suppression of evidence, leading to many unjust convictions. A vast majority of nations of the world have at one time or another fallen victim to U.S. harassment or intimidation. What many foreigners may not realize are the atrocities being committed inside of our own boundaries. The U.S. Government is responsible for countless deaths of our own citizens. The media blackout helps Americans to live in their own naive world, a world where the American dream exists. These are the people who are so grateful to live in this fascist state that they would defend to their deaths a country who would slash their throats if they felt differently. Anyone who believes that America is free may as well finish the job of conditioning and brainwashing that the system started at your births. Get lobotomized now because you don't need your minds to be an obedient sheep. This government, because of their patriotic brainwashing, can get away with mass murder and have the approval of the American people. All it takes is the fear that our government strikes into the hearts of our citizens that a group or an individual is out to destroy our "great" system by simply not conforming. Look at the atrocities committed in Waco, Texas-hundreds of men, women, and children were slaughtered on national television. The public accepted this because of the allegations that they were a crazed cult looking to start a war. It was our government that started the war with the Branch Davidians, not them. Because these people did not fit into mainstream society- they were victims. They paid not only with their lives, but because of our government's political bias and the cooperation with the media, justice will never be. The Davidians should have been protected, by the law, to hold their own beliefs. Instead their beliefs (or at least the media's interpretation of their beliefs) justified the brute force used to murder innocent people. America is supposed to have religious freedom, but that freedom just like every other freedom, is actually a privilege and not a right. In light of current events, namely the Oklahoma City bombing, the government is now tightening it's stranglehold on American citizens. Congress is in the process of passing an "Anti-Terrorist" bill that will only make their COINTELPRO secret tactics legal. The legality involved never stopped the government before, but this will make operations easier. Anyone who is a dissident of the state will now be labeled a terrorist and disposed of nice and legal. As a result of the bombing, the government has already begun harassing many different groups. These groups may or may not be responsible for the bombing. The fact is that this bombing was an excuse for the government to step up it's efforts of oppression. Our government is not mourning over the children killed in this bombing, they're exploiting them. The children have become the fuel needed to gain public support. There have even been reports that our government knew of and could've prevented the bombing. Other reports say the government set up the bombing. I don't claim to know what really happened, but this has been a boost to the government's efforts. Another bill that will soon be passed by Congress is the bill to make "disrespecting the flag" illegal. Not only flag burning will be outlawed, but each individual state will be able to decide what is actually disrespecting the flag. Maybe I'm a little paranoid from growing up in this fascist country, but could it get to the point where refusing to salute the flag or recite the Pledge of Allegiance will be disrespecting the flag? A crime punishable by who knows what. The politicians insist that they're not denying anyone's freedom of expression. It looks like PATRIOTISM BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY to me. It's time for people to wake up and realize where they're living. How can you claim to be free while your fellow citizens are being imprisoned or killed for fighting for their freedom? YOU ARE NOT FREE WHILE OTHERS ARE OPPRESSED. AS SOON AS THEY GET THEM... YOU'LL BE TARGETED NEXT.

"Two Years And One Song Later"

Tuesday, May 18 is a day in history. It's a day that has been constantly repeated for years and years. A day no more or less significant than any other day. It's only a blur in the endless carnage and suffering that posses the stinging similarity to the nazi holocaust. But these atrocities, however, are happening right now. It's just another day of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. Ethnic cleansing is the Serbian invented euphemism describing the atrocities being committed against Muslim and Croatian civilians. The war that began in April 1992 was predictable. What was not so predictable was the cold-blooded murder of civilians, nor was the massive deportation in over crowded cattle cars of trains to concentration camps. Upon arrival at these camps prisoners are sheared like sheep. Denied medical attention, food and shelter many die in these death camps every day. The grass has all been ripped out and eaten, as this is the only source of food that some will get to eat. When it rains prisoners find themselves standing up to their knees in mud. Only a handful of these prisoners bore arms against the Serbian soldiers. The Serbian government has given orders that "special treatment" be shown to healthy women between 17 to 40 years of age. Tens of thousands of these young girls and women receiving this "special treatment" were systematically raped with the sickening plan of impregnating them with Serbian seeds and making them bare a stranger, which are then to be taken away. The world strongly stated "Never Again" after World War II. This may be the reason why most of the world seems to be ignoring this modern day genocide. Tuesday, May 18,1993 was the date on the newspaper that held the gruesome picture of a woman holding a skull that once belonged to a loved one. This single picture outraged me and opened my eyes to the ethnic cleansing I had only previously overlooked as just another war. It was a slap in the face that I still feel to this day. A constant reminder of the pain caused by human ignorance and greed. Almost two years and one song later and nothing's changed, except the death toll. How much longer will these atrocities continue? How much longer will the people sit silently by...as history repeats?

ROTTEN PROPAGANDA

The purpose of this newspaper is to bring some important issues into the punk scene. We feel that an important part of punk is the message, which often is lost or unclear. This is the beginning of what we hope to be a long future of dispensing information. We invite anyone with something important to say to send us articles or commentaries and we will try and use them in upcoming issues. Our goal is to help inform other people involved in the punk community. We also hope to learn through the contributions of others.

Eric and I have started a label under the name of Rotten Propaganda. We are now in the position to help bands get their message out. After all without help from Havoc Records, Profane Existence, Tribal War, and many zines we would not have been able to reach as many people as we have. We are happy to be able to give something back to punk scene.

The label will be putting out records of a political nature. The first release is from the Pittsburgh band Discord and is available now. Future releases include seven inches by Broken and possibly Population Control. All seven inches will be $3 post paid.

There is also a new D.I.Y distro in Pittsburgh which sells tapes, seven inches, and patches. 121 Distro can be reached at 121 Chesterfield Rd./PGH, PA/15213/USA. They have recently started setting up shows in the PGH area. Get in touch with them.

In regards to this issue, several articles on political prisoners were taken from "Z Magazine" and written by Ward Churchill. Thanks to Ryan for his article on vegetarianism, Refuse and Resist for the posters, and special thanks to Mumia Abu-Jamal for the use of his commentary

Solidarity
Dave

UPDATES

-Mumia Abu-Jamal's stay of execution was granted on August 7, 1995 no doubt due to the incredible amount of pressure from people all over the world.

-Judge Albert Sabo granted the stay of execution. Upon reviewing the Post Conviction Relief Judge Sabo demonstrated his bias once again by ruling that there was no new evidence that warranted a new trial.

-Leonard Weinglass prepares to appeal Sabo's ridiculous ruling as support continues to grow world wide.

-The ruling of Jamal's civil suit against SCI Greene, regarding his isolation, denial of privileges and visitors, and the unlawful opening of his mail is still pending

-As many countries, including South Africa, outlaw the use of the death penalty Pennsylvania and many other states in America still practice this inhumane method of punishment.

-The United States is the only industrialized nation that condones the use of the death penalty.

-There is a law being passed that will limit the number of appeals for death row prisoners.

ADDRESSES

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-WESTERN PA. COMM. TO FREE MUMIA ABU JAMAL P.O. Box 10174 Pittsburgh, PA 15232-0174 USA (412) 361-2889

-INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL P.O. Box 19709 Philadelphia, PA 19443

-PHILADELPHIA REFUSE AND RESIST- P.O. Box 34117 Philadelphia, PA 19101 USA (215) 928-5291

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-EQUAL JUSTICE USA- P.O. Box 5206 Hyattsville, MD 20782 USA (301) 699-0042

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-ALBERT "NUH" WASHINGTON,#77A1528-CCF-MAIN Box 2001 Danne Mora, NY 12929-2001 USA

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-AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT (AIM) - 2300 Cedar Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55404 USA (612) 724-3129

-SLUG & LETTUCE- P.O. Box 2067 Peter Stuy. Stn. NY, NY. 10009-8914

-PROFANE EXISTENCE- P.O. Box 8722 Minneapolis, MN 55408

-PITTSBURGH FOOD NOT BOMBS- P.O. Box 71287 Pittsburgh, PA 15213 USA

-ANTI RACIST ACTION- P.O.Box 02097 Columbus, OH 43202 USA (614) 424-9074

-ANTI-FASCIST DEFENSE COMMITTEE - P.O. Box 7075 Minneapolis, MN. 55407 USA

10 facts not reported by the major media about Food Not Bombs

If the major media had reported the following facts about Food Not Bombs and the seven year campaign of arrests, beatings and bureaucratic harassment waged by City Officials the taxpayers of San Francisco might have saved millions of dollars and much misery.
San Francisco Food Not Bombs gave the major Bay Area media documentation supporting the fallowing facts on many occasions but they failed to report this evidence to the public. After six years people still ask us why "we just don't get a permit so the police stop arresting us". Every reporter in San Francisco should know that we applied for our first permit on July 11, 1988 before we were first arrested. We have had permits begining on September 9, 1988 though the present. We now have two current Health Permits that were suspended on July 19, 1990 when the Recreation and Parks outlawed the park permit process.

1- Food Not Bombs first applied for a permit on July 11, 1988 and was awnsered when 45 riot police arrested 9 volunteers on August 15, 1988. For the past six years volunteers have spent hundreds of unpaid hours meeting with city officials in an effiort to get permits.

2- Food Not Bombs has had one million dollars worth of food liability insurance that names the city and county as additional insured from 1988 through the present. No one has filed a claim against us.

3- Food Not Bombs has had a permit beginning on September 9, 1988 and continues to have two Health Permits which were suspended when the Recreation and Parks Commission out lawed park permits on July 19, 1990.

4- Not one person has ever become sick because they ate at Food Not Bombs and the city therefore has not been able to show even one case to the courts or to the media in over 900,000 hot meals served during the past six years.

5- The City has arrested Food Not Bombs volunteers over 1,000 times but has only brought one case to trial and resulting in one conviction.

6- The San Francisco Police began wiretapping Food Not Bombs member's home phones less then two weeks after the group received its first permit and the police did not even get a warrant.

7- Even though the police have arrested, injured, and hospitalized many members of Food Not Bombs we have remaind nonviolent. No volunteer has ever been convicted of any violent crimes and we have provided videotape evidence of police violence against our members and the public.

8- The City and County of San Francisco has spent millions of dollars trying to stop Food Not Bombs. The media has not tried to discover the exact amount.

9- Spying by the San Francisco Police Department's Intelligence Division (Special Operations) and private groups like the ADL have interfered with Food Not Bombs legal effort to protest poverty and war by giving away free food and have caused volunteers to lose jobs, become injured by police officers and to lose their freedom and property unnecessarily.

10- Food Not Bombs started in 1980, has no leaders and no paid staff and has served free vegetarian food to thousands of people each week in over 75 cities around the world. Food Not Bombs served for eight years without getting arrested. All but 3 of the over 1,000 arrests were made in San Francisco. The group also delivers fresh food to other soup kitchens and shelters and serves free food at protests.

The city has been arresting Food Not Bombs because we support the rights of the poor. They don't want to spend more money then they have too on the poor. Our effective protest interfers with their plans to drive the homeless from the city. Call (415) 386-9209 for more information

FOOD NOT BOMBS

3145 GEARY BLVD. #12, SAN FRANCISC, CA 94118 1-800-884-1136

Seven Steps to Organizing a Local Food Not Bombs

At the outset, starting a Food Not Bombs might seem like more than you can handle. Work on the basics, taking one step at a time. There is no need to feel pressured to accomplish everything at once. It might take a couple of weeks to get things rolling, or it might take months. One person cannot be a Food Not Bombs group, but one person can be the "starter" of one group.

Once you have made the decision to start a local Food Not Bombs group, pick a meeting date, time, and place, and gather together everyone interested to talk about what you would like to do. You might start with a group of friends, or members of an existing group, or it could be people who respond to posters announcing your intentions.

The following is a step-by-step process to get your food operation up and running. Because of your unique situation, you may need to add, ignore, or reorder steps. Follow the path you feel will work best for your group.

Step 1: Start by getting a phone number and mailing address. By using either a voice mailbox or an answering machine, you can have an outgoing message with information about the next meeting time and place, and receive messages so that you never miss a call. Likewise, use a commercial mailbox or post office box for your permanent address.

Step 2: Make flyers announcing the existence of a local Food Not Bombs group. By handing them out at events, posting them around town, or mailing them to your friends, you will get additional volunteers. It is helpful to have regularly scheduled, weekly meetings and always know the date of the next one.

Step 3: Arrange for the use of a vehicle. Among the members of your group, there might be enough vehicles of the right size for your needs, but if not, you might be able to borrow a van or truck from a sympathetic church group or similar organization. If you are very lucky, you could be able to find someone to donate one to you. If none of the above succeeds, you can always hold fund-raising events specifically for the purchase of a van.

Step 4: With flyers in hand, begin looking for sources of food. The first places to approach are the local food co-ops and health food stores. These types of stores tend to be supportive and are a good place to practice your approach. Tell them you plan to give the food to shelters and soup kitchens to feed hungry people, and if they are interested and willing, arrange for a regular time to pick up the food each day or as often as practical. Where appropriate, leave literature that explains what Food Not Bombs does.

Step 5: Deliver your collected food to shelters and meal kitchens. It is important to get to know the food pantries and soup kitchens in your area. Learn where they are located, whom they serve, and how many they serve. This information will help you to plan your delivery route and to distribute the appropriate types and amounts of food to each program. It is usually desirable to arrange a regular delivery schedule with each kitchen.

Step 6: Once this network becomes established, start to skim some food out of the flow without disrupting the program. With this food, prepare meals to serve on the streets. Go to rallies and demonstrations first; there your group can recruit more volunteers, collect donations, and lift the spirits of those at the event. Giving out meals at a rally builds community and supports the cause in a very direct way.

Step 7: Once enough people are involved, consider serving meals in a visible way one day a week to the homeless on the street. Cooking and serving food there builds community within the group and is hard work, but this is also great fun. Pick highly visible locations, because part of our mission is to help make the "invisible homeless" more visible. We also want to reach out to everyone with our political message of "food not bombs," and we want to be very accessible.

Food Not Bombs
INTERNATIONAL GATHERING
July18-August 4, 1996 • Atlanta

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